

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-05
/118 W

-----055679 120754Z /13

P R 120430Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9178
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KUALA LUMPUR 6378

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UN, MY, US
SUBJECT: UNGA CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 205678; (B) KUALA LUMPUR 4907

1. SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION: DCM AND POL CHIEF MET WITH SENIOR
MFA OFFICIALS IN PAST WEEK TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON FORTHCOMING
UNGA SESSIONS, CITING USG POSITIONS ON KEY SUBJECTS PER REF A
GUIDANCE, AND SOLICITING GOM VIEWS ON ISSUES LIKELY TO ARISE
IN NEW YORK. MFA OFFICIALS SEE MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTHERN
AFRICA MATTERS FIGURING PROMINENTLY IN 32ND UNGA AND
EXPRESSED RELIEF KOREAN ISSUE APPARENTLY WILL NOT REPEAT NOT
BE RAISED THIS YEAR. MFA OFFICER IN CHARGE OF MULTILATERAL
AFFAIRS, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM SINGAPORE MEETING OF
ASEAN OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH UN MATTERS, REPORTS THESE
CONSULTATIONS REVEALED FOLLOWING ISSUES OF PARTICULAR
INTEREST TO ONE OR MORE ASEAN MEMBERS: EAST TIMOR
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(INDONESIA); STATUS OF BRUNEI (MALAYSIA); INDOCHINESE
REFUGEES (THAILAND); CODIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC CODES (PHILIPPINES); UN ASSESSMENTS (SINGAPORE;
AND VIETNAMESE (SRV) BEHAVIOR IN UN (ALL FIVE, BUT
THAILAND IN PARTICULAR). IF ELECTIONS ARE REQUIRED TO
SELECT ASIAN REPRESENTATIVES TO UNEP (THERE ARE NOW FIVE
CANDIDATES FOR FOUR ASIAN SLOTS), MALAYSIA HOPES U.S.

WILL SUPPORT ITS CANDIDATE. END SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION.

2. DCM AND POL SECTION CHIEF CALLED ON DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL DATUK ZAINAL ABIDIN BIN MOHD. YUSOF, HEAD OF MFA POLITICAL DIVISION, SEPT. 7 TO DISCUSS KEY ISSUES IN FORTHCOMING RESUMED 31ST AND REGULAR 32ND UNGA SESSIONS. DCM DREW ON REF A GUIDANCE TO UNDERScore U.S. POSITIONS ON MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES, PUERTO RICO, GUAM, AND NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. DATUK ZAINAL LISTENED ATTENTIVELY TO EXPOSITION U.S. POSITION, PARTICULARLY ON U.S. INITIATIVES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND INQUIRED WHETHER U.S. WAS CONTEMPLATING SEEKING AMENDMENTS TO RES 242 TO BETTER ADDRESS PALESTINIAN QUESTION. DCM REPLIED ALONG LINES REF A THAT WHILE AWARE OF PALESTINIAN CONCERNS, WE DO NOT REPEAT NO FAVOR AMENDING RESOLUTION 242. DATUK ZAINAL NOTED THAT NORTH KOREANS HAD INFORMED GOM THEY WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT PRESS FOR DEBATE ON THE KOREAN QUESTION AT THIS YEAR'S UNGA, "MUCH TO EVERYONE'S REFLIEF."

3. DCM AND POL CHIEF MET SEPT. 9 WITH AJIT SINGH, MFA UNDERSECRETARY FOR MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS AND FORMER MALAYSIAN DEPUTY PERM REP IN NEW YORK. DCM REITERATED POINTS MADE IN SEPT. 7 MEETING WITH ZAINAL ABIDIN, AND DETAILED U.S. POSITIONS ON OTHER ISSUES NOT PREVIOUSLY RAISED. AJIT NOTED THAT HE WAS PREOCCUPIED WITH PREPARING THE PRIME MINISTER'S UNGA ADDRESS, WHICH IS CONFIDENTIAL

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SCHEDULED FOR SEPT. 30 AND WHICH WILL PLACE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON MIDDLE EAST QUESTIONS. IN THIS REGARD, HE SAID THE IRAQIS HAVE BEEN PRESSING THE GOM FOR SUPPORT ON AN INITIATIVE ON THE PALESTINE QUESTION, ALTHOUGH THE MALAYSIANS ARE NOT REPEAT NOT AWARE OF THE DETAILS. AJIT ALSO REMARKED THAT AT THE SYRIANS' INITIATIVE, A MEETING OF NON-ALIGNED AND ISLAMIC MINISTERS WOULD TAKE PLACE IN NEW YORK ON SEPT. 26. HE ADDED THAT ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WERE OF PARTICULAR CONCERN AND PRESSURE IS MOUNTING FOR A RESOLUTION ON THIS ISSUE.

4. ON CYPRUS SETTLEMENT, AJIT INDICATED THAT GOM, IN LINE WITH ISLAMIC CONFERENCE DECISIONS, WOULD FAVOR TURKISH CYPRIOT REPRESENTATION IN PLENARY. HOWEVER, GOM WILL SUPPORT AN "OMNIBUS" RESOLUTION ON CYPRUS "IF IT ISN'T TOO HARD ON THE TURKS."

5. SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES. FOLLOWING PRESENTATION OF U.S. POSITIONS, AJIT INDICATED THAT GOM POLICY IS "ALL THE WAY WITH THE AFRICANS," NOTING THERE IS GROWING PRESSURE FOR SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION, PARTICULARLY ON

ZIMBABWE (RHODESIA), BROADENING MANDATORY SANCTIONS AGAINST SMITH REGIME. DCM REITERATED PER GUIDANCE OUR POSSIBLE PROBLEMS WITH THIS AND OUR HOPE THAT SUFFICIENT TIME WOULD BE GIVEN FOR JOINT U.S.-UK INITIATIVES TO BEAR FRUIT. AJIT REPLIED THAT TIME IS RUNNING OUT, AND AFRICANS SEEM TO HAVE LOST PATIENCE. DCM COUNTERED THAT U.S. STILL IS HOPEFUL A PEACEFUL SOLUTION CAN BE WORKED OUT, SINCE RISK OF SERIOUS BLOODSHED AND SUFFERING AMONG ALL GROUPS, INCLUDING AFRICANS, IS GREAT IF IT CANNOT.

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6. AJIT SAID THAT HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM A MEETING IN SINGAPORE OF ASEAN OFFICIALS INVOLVED WITH UN MATTERS. IN THE COURSE OF THESE PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS, SEVERAL ISSUES WERE IDENTIFIED AS BEING OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO ONE OF MORE ASEAN COUNTRIES. FOR EXAMPLE, INDONESIA IS ENGAGED IN A MAJOR EFFORT TO WIN SUPPORT FOR ITS POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR, AND PRESIDENT SUHARTO WILL BE TRAVELING TO A NUMBER OF MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES BEGINNING OCTOBER 9 IN ORDER TO WOO ARAB NATIONS, WHO IN GENERAL HAD ABSTAINED ON LAST YEAR'S RESOLUTION. (AJIT NOTED THAT ONLY SINGAPORE AMONG THE ASEAN NATIONS HAD NOT REPEAT NOT VOTED AGAINST THE RESOLUTION, AND WOULD PRESUMABLY FOLLOW A SIMILAR COURSE THIS YEAR.) MALAYSIA ON ITS PART WAS INTERESTED IN THE

RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR BRUNEI, AND HOPED THE U.S. WOULD SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION. (HE NOTED THAT THE U.S. "ALONG WITH THE EEC" HAD SUPPORTED THE BRITISH ON THIS QUESTION THIS YEAR.) SINGAPORE
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WOULD PROBABLY ABSTAIN ON THIS RESOLUTION IN VIEW OF ITS CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE SULTAN OF BRUNEI, AJIT REMARKED. SINGAPORE IS CONCERNED ABOUT UN ASSESSMENTS, WHICH IT CONSIDERS HAVE BEEN SCALED ON A FAULTY DATA BASE. THE PHILIPPINES HOPE THAT VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CODES WILL BE CODIFIED INTO A SIMPLER, MORE USABLE, DIGEST.

6. ACCORDING TO AJIT SINGH, THAILAND IS ESPECIALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE INDOCHINESE REFUGEE PROBLEM AND WANTS THE UN TO ADDRESS THIS MATTER. ALTHOUGH THAIS WOULD PREFER A SEPARATE RESOLUTION ON THIS, CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE SRV OPPOSITION MAY LIMIT THEIR ACTIONS TO SEEKING AN AMENDMENT TO THE NORMAL RESOLUTION ON THE UNHCR THAT MIGHT URGE OTHER UN BODIES TO COOPERATE MORE FULLY WITH UNHCR (APPARENTLY THAIS HAVE ENCOUNTERED PROBLEMS WITH UN BUREAUCRACY; E.G., COMMUNICATION BREAK-DOWNS BETWEEN UNHCR AND WORLD FOOD PROGRAM OVER REFUGEE FEEDING PROGRAMS). FINALLY, ALL FIVE ASEAN NATIONS WILL BE WATCHING VIETNAMESE (SRV) BEHAVIOR CLOSELY IN WHAT WILL BE THEIR FIRST PARTICIPATION AS UN MEMBERS. ASEAN MEMBERS WILL BE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED TO OBSERVE HOW ACTIVE AND ASSERTIVE THE SRV DELEGATION WILL BE, SINCE THIS MAY IMPACT ON ASEAN NATIONS' INTERESTS ON VARIOUS ISSUES.

7. AJIT EXPLAINED THAT THERE NOW APPEARED TO BE FIVE CANDIDATES FOR FOUR ASIAN SLOTS ON THE UNEP (UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM), AND UNLESS ONE OF THE CANDIDATES WITHDRAWS ELECTIONS WILL BE NECESSARY. IN SUCH AN INSTANCE, THE GOM REQUESTS THE U.S. TO SUPPORT ITS (UNNAMED) CANDIDATE.

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8. COMMENT: MEETINGS WITH MFA REPRESENTATIVES AFFORDED USEFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON UNGA ISSUES. WE FOUND AJIT SINGH PARTICULARLY WELL-INFORMED AND KNOWLEDGEABLE ON KEY ISSUES, AND HE SEEMED APPRECIATIVE TO RECEIVE BRIEFING ON U.S. POSITIONS. WE

NOTED, HOWEVER, CARE HE TOOK TO EMPHASIZE THAT MALAYSIA, DESPITE ITS GENERAL ESPOUSAL OF NON-CONFRONTATIONAL APPROACHES AND PEACEFUL COMPROMISES, NONETHELESS CONSIDERS ITSELF CLOSELY ALLIED WITH GENERAL THIRD-WORLD AND ISLAMIC ASPIRATIONS. HE SAID MALAYSIA, THEREFORE, FOLLOWS A TWO-TRACK APPROACH: CONTINUING TO WORK FOR PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS IN THE COURSE OF ON-GOING NEGOTIATIONS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME KEEPING PRESSURE ON INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS IN OTHER FORA TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON MAJOR PROBLEM AREAS OR TO QUICKEN THE PACE OF EFFORTS TO REDRESS VARIOUS THIRD-WORLD GRIEVANCES.

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